

The proposed new Canadian constitution is, I believe, the most serious threat to our individual freedoms and our financial future that we have ever been called upon to face. I believe if Trudeau can successfully force this constitution onto reluctant Canadians, he will have slammed the door shut on any real future financial progress Canadians in the West can make. The constitution is the key. If he can turn it, the West will be forever locked in. Peter Lougheed has told you, you will be as mere second class citizens. Realize you will be second class Canadians lacking even basic democratic rights, so you will also be frightened, abused second class citizens. I believe you will even be actually poor second class citizens, deprived of some of your present prosperity, ~~and~~ ^{I BELIEVE} the West's future prosperity and growth will have been legally, by law, seriously crippled for hundreds of years. It will all be done by the so-called constitution, a constitution that is, at this very moment, being foisted upon you. It seems like a bad nightmare - an unreal impossible thing; Something you hope will just be gone by tomorrow. Unfortunately, it's a harsh reality.

You must wonder how could this happen in our lovely land of Canada? - A land that has always been one of the great democracies of the world - a free and rich land. I don't guess ^{to} how you will lose these rights. In past articles I have even given you the sections of the constitution where it tells you in black and white how you will lose them. The losses are many but the most vital one is your loss of property rights. For 900 years, since Magna Charta which said "Every individual must be permanently secured in the free enjoyment of his life and property" you have had this right. Now the guarantee for the individuals' or the provinces' property rights has been deliberately omitted from Canada's new constitution. This is no mere omission - it is deliberate as various questions by the three political parties have revealed.

Mr. Trudeau could not assure Premier Blakeney that they would be returned and the N.D.P. party has split East and West over this section. There are no guaranteed property rights in the charter or the constitution. You have lost them. Canada, in the past, had through then common law ^{NOW} reaffirmation of that ancient 900 year old right to property in the courts, and it also has many statutes guarantee them, including Mr. Diefenbaker's Charter of Rights which was the basis for Canada's Bill of Rights, ^{WHICH BECAME LAW} ~~THIS~~ was passed over ten years ago. It specifically guaranteed individuals a right to the "enjoyment of property rights except through loss by due process of law". But those protections are now wiped out by the "trick" section in the constitution. That is Section 25. The constitutional committee's only recommendation after their session was to toughen up that section, not remove it. In Section 25 it now says "the constitution of Canada is the supreme law of Canada and any law that is inconsistent with the provisions of the constitution, is to the extent of that inconsistency OF NO FORCE OR EFFECT". Nowhere in the charter or the constitution is the guaranteed right of persons or provinces to hold securely their own property. ^{IT CLEARLY INCONSISTANT & OVERRIDES}

What is the most valuable thing the West has? Its wealth all stems from its rich land, ^{ITS PROPERTY} the wheat and lumber that grows on it, the livestock dependant on it, the rich oil and minerals that lay under it. This is why our immigrating parents came here. They came to get a share in that land and to have the democratic right to acquire ^{PROPERTY HERE} and keep it. All have worked hard to develop it. Now that the dividends ^{FROM THE WEST} are just beginning to pay off and Westerners have prosperity, ^{HOW} ^{NOW} by this constitution they are about to lose it all. The removal of property rights was deliberate. It is to legalize the robbery slowly and whenever necessary of the West's only proven great asset to date, ~~this land~~ our property. This now is to be taken to assure the perpetration of power for the central government at Ottawa, taken to pay

Ottawa's vast debts and to buy the votes to keep them in power.

By Section 31 called Equilization Section, the government at Ottawa will have given themselves that power - power ~~on a~~ now legalized ~~excuse~~. It says in the proposed constitution this will be "the supreme law of Canada. It can do this on the grounds of 'promoting equal opportunities' or furthering 'economic development to reduce disparity of opportunities.'" By this, they can, whenever they want, raid Westerners or Western provinces of land or the revenue from it. The drain and loss of our one vast asset - the land and its revenue - will be sporadic and subtle, but unfortunately, now legal and continuous.

It wouldn't matter in the future if gold was discovered under half the acreages in all the four provinces of Alberta, B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba, or the far north; none of us will be allowed to retain it or to gain from it. Neither we nor the provinces, have any rights to hang onto either the land or its revenue. We have lost them. Already the raid is on in preparation for when this becomes law. A raid on our oil rights, under a so-called Energy Policy, and now the way is being prepared for a raid on our wheat by placing in the federally controlled Wheat Board a new market assurance plan.

Not only will we be second class citizens in Canada because we have legally lost our democratic rights to land, but we will be condemned to comparative poverty for a long time. We in the West have been barred legally ~~FROM BEING~~ ~~to be~~ allowed to even amend or alter this "Supreme Law of Canada" which is designed to rob us of our present wealth and any future wealth we may acquire.

You may hopefully say to yourself "but these new powers given to Ottawa apply to every Canadian". We in the West will ~~benefit~~ ^{LOSE OR} and the East equally ~~lose~~ benefit or lose. In theory that is how it should operate, but in practical application, it won't.

You are forgetting these new powers given Ottawa are discriminatory. It is they who will decide when they think that an "opportunity" should be promoted, and which areas should be "equalized", by simply taking their lands or its revenue.

Ontario elects 95 members to our federal parliament. Quebec elects 75, but the four Western provinces, even if they voted in unison, can only elect 80. As long as Ottawa can keep the voters in Ontario and Quebec happy, they are assured a return to power. Ontario and Quebec know the discretionary powers given Ottawa will never dare be used against them. So they feel safe in surrendering their democratic rights - rights as to political imprisonment - rights to a new type of judicial system - and that greatest of all democratic rights, the right of any person, individual or collective persons in a province to own property. Those ^{TWO} provinces will have the security that land could never be taken from them. Their majority votes save them. That is why central Canada doesn't give a fig for our loss of democratic rights - they are going for the financial gains only, knowing these discretionary frightening powers will not be used against them. If they ever are, by vote Ontario and Quebec can displace the government in Ottawa at any time. They also have already in the constitution a provision by which they can legally amend that constitution - we do not.

With the loss of any form of regional protection that was once provided for Canadians under the B.N.A. Act, even our elected Premiers will be powerless to act on our behalf. The constitution provides for provincial conferences but the premiers can only confer - they can not act.

In the United States, their constitution guarantees regional protection. They elect from each state an equal number of senators each election. No changes can be made in their constitution, their trade agreements or their tariff rates - in fact, in any vital matter, unless the president can obtain a two-third consent vote for any law he and his parliament or congress wish to pass. ITS NOT LAW, FROM THE REGIONAL - REPRESENTATIVES THE ELECTED SENATE

By our new constitution, our provincial premiers, ^{POWER} the only regional protection we once had, will go with the disappearance of the B.N.A. Act. There is no provision at all for regional representation in the new substituted constitution.

Before each election, Ottawa will "equalize opportunities" out of the West to assure the votes necessary to elect them from Ontario and Quebec. They did it in the last election. Now it will be forever not only possible, but will be an entrenched legal right Ottawa has, and we will have neither the votes nor now the legal right to prevent it. ~~THE CONSTITUTION LEGALIZES AND CAN ENSURE THE FUTURE POVERTY OF THE WEST.~~

At present, our only hope to stop this disastrous change in our present democratic form of law and government lies in the courts and in England's refusal to impose this constitution on us in their parliament, ~~not Canada's~~. The ~~changes~~ ^{CONSTITUTION DID} have not come from the voters. It's only a little over a year since we elected Trudeau and at that time, there was not even a murmur about a new constitution. Now Trudeau says he will not go to election on this issue. The mandate for this total change in government has come only from a political party, a party really only put into power by two provinces' votes, Ontario's and Quebec's. Nor did the government get a mandate from our regional representatives, the provinces' premiers. They continually in provincial conferences turned Trudeau down so he just ceased consulting them and has gone over their authority. That is why now 7 provinces are suing him and 3 have gone on record as opposed to the constitution.

The only mandate Trudeau has to deprive this country of the most basic democratic rights and change our country's form of government into a centralized state where all power and control lies in Ottawa ~~is mainly by the vote at one election of the two Eastern provinces of Canada.~~ ^{IT CAME FROM THE VOTES}

^{OF ONLY} A POLITICAL PARTY ELECTED BY EASTERN CANADA
Our only hope for Canada's future as a democratic whole country lies in the courts and in England's refusal to just pass this constitution for Trudeau. The Supreme Court of Canada may still declare it Ultra Vires. I have always had

great faith in the Courts of Justice. In the past, it is there our democratic rights have been preserved. It is to them the individuals in a democracy can look to for protection. That is why progress in democracies is possible in a legal proper way. Revolutions and violence and dissention is unnecessary because we have a great judicial system. If the appeal to the courts for democratic justice fails, then our only other hope ^{FOR WESTERN CANADA} is that England will refuse to pass this kind of a constitution as a mere amendment to the B.N.A. Act. Sir Anthony Kershaw and his committee of twelve able persons, after an exhaustive study that is over a hundred pages long, has stated he personally cannot support the passing of this constitution and making it law in England. But England is ^{FAR OFF} ~~another~~ country where our influence as Western Canadians is difficult to enforce. Westerners are personally carrying petitions over there, signed by thousands of persons in Western Canada. Organizations called improperly by Trudeau separatists ~~like West-fed~~ have organized massive letters and prepared material that they have arranged to deliver by courier to the English Parliament. The federal government's mail service has conveniently been reduced to a snail's pace.

The real and possibly only hope of stopping the passage of this constitution now that the voter has been denied a voice and even the opposition to parliament a voice by once ^{HAVING} closure, and now ^{FACING} a newly threatened one, lies in the strength and determination of our four Western Premiers. It is to them we must turn as our champions of democracy and of the West's economical future.

Fortunately, they have all been very strong in our defense. They are fighting in the courts and in every way they can to preserve democratic rights for Canadians and continued financial freedom for Western Canadians. We are indeed blessed that at this time we have strong men leading the West. Men who can put politics aside to fight for all the people who live in the West. We must support them in their fight. They are the ones who can carry properly and legally our objections to England. We as Westerners must now assure them

of our support. Write your provincial members, but above all, thank your strong Premiers and assure them of your complete support in their fight to stop the constitution.

They are our gladiators fighting for our rights. They have to fight for them in an arena ^{CREATED BY} a hero type "emperor" ^{AN EMPEROR CREATED BY} has ~~created~~ ^{ONLY} with the backing of two provinces of Canada ^{THESE PROVINCES} who stand in no danger of losing democratic rights but are concerned only for immediate ^{FINANCIAL} gains for themselves.

IF THIS CONSTITUTION PASSES WESTERN CANADIANS WILL ALL FACE A BLEAK FINANCIAL FUTURE.

Ruth Gorman

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